

transmission of the disease by sexual intercourse, this does not exclude the possibility of the transference by other means which can certainly occur in syphilis and gonorrhoea. Kessel and Thompson (1950) demonstrated the survival to *T. vaginalis* in vaginal discharge, and Whittington (1951a, b) has shown that the organism may survive in tap water. These papers suggest the possibility of spread of infection by fomites and even by bathing in fresh-water swimming pools.

In approaching the various problems concerning *T. vaginalis*, it should not be forgotten that *Trichomonas foetus* infection of cattle is known to be a venereal disease—that the bull, which usually has a balanitis, may also have a urino-genital infection which cannot be cured. This organism definitely invades the uterus to produce abortion in the cow, but is a self-limiting disease. It is possible that we may gain more understanding of trichomonas vaginitis by studying the literature from veterinary sources on the *Trichomonas foetus*. In this respect the papers by Kerr and Robertson (1946a, b; 1947) and by Kerr, McGirr, and Robertson (1949) on

vaccination, localization of antibody in the genital tract, and antibody formation in the blood in relation to agglutination and intradermal tests in cattle, are of interest.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The third annual conference of the Marseilles branch of the Société Française de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie will be held in Marseilles on October 17, 18, 19, and 20, 1952. Papers on "The treponemal immobilization test, its technique, results, significance, and practical value" will be presented.

Particulars can be obtained from Dr. J. Bonnet, the General Secretary of the Society, Clinique Dermatologique, Hôtel-Dieu, Marseilles.

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BRITISH JOURNAL OF VENEREAL DISEASES

EDITED FOR

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CONTENTS

Editorial	105
Possible Applications of Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH) and Cortisone in Syphilis. G. O. HORNE	106
Gonococcal Infection of the Para-Urethral Glands in the Female. ELISABETH REES	115
Newer Methods in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Granuloma Inguinale. ROBERT B. GREEN- BLATT and W. E. BARFIELD	123
Standardization of the Wassermann Test using Preserved Complement Titrated to 50 per cent. Haemolysis. P. N. COLEMAN	129
Syphilis in Mental Deficiency. W. V. MACFARLANE and C. B. S. SCHOFIELD	138
Aureomycin in the Local Treatment of Trichomonas Vaginitis. C. S. NICOL, E. GALLAGHER, and A. J. KING	142
Annotation. <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	144
Social Work in the V.D. Service	146
Abstracts	147

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